

Hunter College Senate
Report by the Committee on General Education
(1 December 2021)

Resolution to Repeal the May 14, 2014 Resolution Restricting the Learning Outcomes for
courses in the CUNY Common Core category of US Experience in Its Diversity

Be it resolved that the Senate resolution that established the learning outcomes for Hunter courses in the CUNY Common Core category of US Experience in Its Diversity (USED) on May 14, 2014 be repealed.

Rationale:

In 2013, Hunter implemented the CUNY Common Core (CCC) and the Hunter Focus (“Pathways”) as its general education requirements. In the discussions of how best to map Hunter’s previous general education requirements onto the CCC and the Hunter Focus, the U.S. Experience in Its Diversity (USED) category was restricted to courses previously approved for Hunter’s own general education requirement (HIST 151, HIST 152, and POLSC 110).

On May 14, 2014, the Senate approved a set of learning outcomes for USED as a guide for departments and curriculum committees. As a result, other courses could be proposed to fulfill USED, provided they met the selected outcomes prescribed by CUNY and others defined by Hunter. This resolution opened the USED category to more courses, but still maintained the emphasis on US History as part of Hunter’s general education requirements.

The discussions for both efforts emphasized the need to preserve instruction in US History as part of general education at Hunter. The result, however, has been to place undue burden on students to fulfill this category with a limited number of courses offered by a handful of programs. As it stands, only five courses at Hunter fulfill this category, some of which have only recently been added:

- ANTHC 100: Cultural Diversity in the US
- HIST 151: US History to Civil War
- HIST 152: US History after the Civil War
- PHILO 226: African American Philosophy
- POLSC 110: American Government

The bulk of the enrollments in USED is covered by three courses offered by two programs (HIST 151 and 152; POLSC 110). With so few courses in the category, the College has struggled to offer enough seats to meet student demand.

This resolution does not remove US History from general education at Hunter. Instead, it opens the category to a broader range of courses with topics related to US History. By repealing the resolution of May 14, 2014, Hunter courses in the USED category will, like Hunter courses in all other CCC categories, only need to meet the outcomes prescribed by CUNY. This action will create more opportunities for students to fulfill USED while also maintaining their exposure to

US history. It will also help to alleviate some of the burden for general education in US history that is now shouldered by courses in only four programs.